

Proposed amendments to Rule 73 (Committee on Members' Interests) and addition of Rule 85A (Sanctions relating to Claims for Reimbursement of Operating Expenses) to the Rules of Procedure

73. Committee on Members' Interests

(1) There shall be a standing committee to be called the Committee on Members' Interests -

- (a) to examine the arrangements made for the compilation, maintenance and accessibility of the Register of Members' Interests;
- (b) to consider any proposals made by Members or others as to the form and contents of the Register;
- (c) to consider and, if it thinks fit, investigate any complaint made in relation to the registration and declaration of Members' interests or any complaint of a failure to do so;
- (ca) to consider and, if it thinks fit, investigate any complaint made in relation to the conduct of Members in respect of their claims for reimbursement of operating expenses;
- (d) to consider matters of ethics in relation to the conduct of Members in their capacity as such, and to give advice and issue guidelines on such matters;
- (e) to report to the Council and make recommendations, including a recommendation as to a sanction under Rule 85 (Sanctions relating to Interests) or Rule 85A (Sanctions relating to Claims for Reimbursement of Operating Expenses).

(1A) In considering or investigating a complaint referred to in subrule (1)(ca), the committee shall, in addition to any other matter that the committee may consider relevant, have regard to the provisions of the Guide for Reimbursement of Operating Expenses for Members of the Legislative Council.

(2).....(7)

85. Sanctions relating to Interests

Any Member who fails to comply with Rule 83 (Registration of Interests), 83A (Personal Pecuniary Interest to be Disclosed) or 84(1) or (1A) (Voting or Withdrawal in case of Direct Pecuniary Interest) may be admonished, reprimanded or suspended by the Council on a motion to that effect.

85A.Sanctions relating to Claims for Reimbursement of Operating Expenses

A Member who has been recommended by the Committee on Members' Interests to be sanctioned pursuant to investigation conducted under Rule 73(1)(ca) (Committee on Members' Interests) may be admonished, reprimanded or suspended by the Council on a motion to that effect.